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should be reduced or the ryots should be allowed to have the receipts entered in their own books.

*Dewan's reply.*—We are calling for information from the Peishkars as to the income derived from this particular source and when that information comes in, we shall consider if we can either reduce the charge or wholly do away with it. We recognise that Government must ordinarily undergo the expense of giving receipts to parties for monies paid by them.

***11. Registry of porambokes in the names of owners of adjoining lands.***

*Mr. Subramonia Karayalan* (Member, Shencottah Taluk) pointed out that, in measuring lands, when excesses over the ayacut areas were found, they were being treated as Sirkar *thanathu* and registered indiscriminately in the names of persons who applied for them to the detriment of the claims of adjoining landowners. This gave rise to disputes between those owners and the new comers and he therefore requested that preference should be given to the owners of adjoining lands.

*Dewan's reply.*—Ordinarily, a poramboke is a land, which should not be registered in any body's name. The practice now seems to be, when a poramboke is not required for a public purpose, to notify it in the Gazette and after that is done, the Revenue department disposes of it. This is a reasonable practice. I may, however, say that, when a poramboke is transferred from that head and made available for occupation, the claims of adjoining landowners must be favourably considered and Government will issue instructions accordingly.

***12. Delay in issue of pattas for puduvals.***

*Mr. N. Velayudhan Pillai* (Member, Pattanapuram Taluk) represented the delay in the issue of pattas in regard to puduvals adjoining forest reserves even after the realization of the value of land and trees, on the ground that the pattas could be issued only with the concurrence of the Forest department, but that department were delaying disposal of the matter and subjecting the applicants to much suffering by their actions.

*Dewan's reply.*—If the member will write later on quoting specific instances of delay, we shall enquire.

***13. Re-adjustment of the Vadakadama tax.***

*Mr. M. Narayana Kurup* (Member, Vilavankod Taluk) said that originally the tax known as *Vadakadama* was levied at the rate of 5 fanams per kotta of 7 paras and 5 edangalies; but at the settlement the tax was raised to 11¼ fanams at the rate of 6 chuckrams per para. He requested that the tax might be fixed at the original amount.

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*Dewan's reply.*—The Peishkar, Mr. Sankara Menon, has reported on this subject and that report is now under consideration. I think that the member may reduce everything he has to say into writing in a clear form and give it to me and I shall consider it along with the other papers on the subject.

**14. *Value of junglewood trees less than 10 vannams on puduvals not to be realised.***

*Mr. P. Parameswaran Pillai* (Member, Pattanapuram Taluk) spoke of the practice of realising the value of junglewood trees, of four vannams and above, standing on puduval lands and of the hardship resulting thereby. Trees of above 10 vannams were alone useful and those of less girth have to be destroyed after payment of value, to prepare the land for cultivation. It was not possible to rear such small trees for selling them at a profit and pay tax for the land in the meanwhile, as it would take a lifetime for them to grow to a big size and cultivation would suffer. He therefore requested that the value of trees of above 3¾ and below 10 vannams should not be realised.

*Mr. C. Krishna Iyer* (Member, Nedumangad Taluk) requested that the value of trees should not be realised at the rates obtaining at the timber depôts. The size of the standing trees was being taken into calculation. This was hard. The expenses of taking them to the depôt should be deducted.

*Dewan's reply.*—At present, the practice is, when a puduval is registered, to realise from the applicant the value of all standing trees whose size is 3 vannams or more, and there are differential rates for the purpose :—

Between 3 & 5¾ vannams, the rate is 8 annas per tree.
Between 6 & 7¾ vannams, ... ... Rs. 2 per tree.
Between 8 & 9¾ vannams, ... ... Rs. 4 per tree.

It is now proposed by the member that all trees less than 10 vannams should be exempted from payment. That will involve a substantial sacrifice of revenue and Government are not prepared to undertake it.

The settlement rates for the valuation of trees have been introduced as a temporary measure for the expeditious closing of settlement operations. They are not the normal rates. When the settlement of a Taluk is over, the normal rates (now complained of) are introduced.

In view to the representations now made, however, Government will enquire into the whole question of these rates, the differences between them, the reasonableness of the rates and whether they work any hardship.

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